

SNAKE RIVER QUARTERLY NARRATIVE REPORTS

1939

*August - October '39*  
*Quarterly Rep.*  
THE INTERIOR

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

OFFICE OF REGIONAL DIRECTOR  
576 CUSTOM HOUSE  
DENVER, COLORADO

REGION NO. 2

COLORADO  
IDAHO  
MONTANA  
UTAH  
WYOMING

R - Idaho  
Snake River Islands  
Reports

November 22, 1939.

Chief, Bureau of Biological Survey,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

We are transmitting herewith Mr. Winslow's Quarterly  
Report on the Snake River Islands Migratory Waterfowl Refuge.

Inasmuch as Mr. Winslow has failed to sign the report,  
we include his original letter of transmittal.

Very truly yours,

Leo L. Laythe, Regional Director,

by

*Geo. W. Kern*  
Geo. W. Kern, Acting.

Enclosure.

*one*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

OFFICE OF REGIONAL DIRECTOR

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THE INTERIOR  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

Deer Flat Migratory Waterfowl Refuge,  
P. O. Box 942, Nampa, Idaho,  
November 17, 1939.

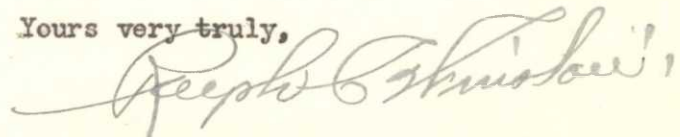
IN REPLY REFER TO

Mr. Leo L. Laythe,  
Regional Director,  
576 Custom House,  
Denver, Colorado.

Dear Mr. Laythe,

Transmitted herewith is quarterly narrative  
report on the Snake River Refuge for the months of  
August, September, and October 1939.

Yours very truly,



Ralph C. Winslow,  
Junior Refuge Manager.

RCW:fw

INCL.





THE INTERIOR

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF

BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

Deer Flat Migratory Waterfowl Refuge,  
P. O. Box 942, Nampa, Idaho,  
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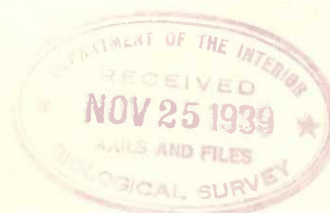
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THE INTERIOR

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF

BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

IN REPLY REFER TO

QUARTERLY NARRATIVE REPORT - SNAKE RIVER REFUGE

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER - & OCTOBER 1939.

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THE INTERIOR.  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ~~AGRICULTURE~~  
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

IN REPLY REFER TO

Deer Flat Migratory Waterfowl Refuge,  
P. O. Box 942, Nampa, Idaho,

NARRATIVE REPORT - SNAKE RIVER REFUGE, IDAHO.

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 1939.

During August, September, and October, weather conditions were extremely dry with a total precipitation slightly over one inch. Through August, temperatures during the day were extremely hot, reaching a maximum high of 100. During September the days were cooler and night temperatures began lowering. The early part of October temperatures lowered considerably, and the latter part of October, temperatures dropped to the freezing point. Wind movements were normal for the three months period.

There follows a table of the climatological data for the period:

	Mean	High	Low	Precipitation
August	73.2	100	41	T
September	61	87	35	.96
October	45.3	72	32	.39

Waterfowl

Approximately three hundred pairs of Canada Geese nested on the numerous islands on and in the vicinity of the Snake River Refuge which includes a continuation of the islands below and above the refuge proper.

This census included mated pairs of geese observed, together with nests actually found.

Following the incubation period, numerous broods of Canada Geese were observed on the refuge. Geese with broods utilized the islands for nesting and roosting. By the 15th of August most of the goslings were fully fledged and had taken to wing.

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IN REPLY REFER TO

Deer Flat Migratory Waterfowl Refuge,  
P. O. Box 942, Nampa, Idaho.

Narrative Report - Snake River Refuge

Page 2.

It is thought that many of them migrated to the Deer Flat Refuge, which is a short distance to the east. As the goose population of the Snake River Refuge decreased, the goose population of the Deer Flat Refuge increased. This condition was, no doubt, caused by a change in food habits. The refuge contains a quantity of aquatic insects which the young geese apparently fed upon. The area is deficient in vegetation, and does not supply the required vegetation which constitutes the necessary goose foods. On the other hand, the recession of Lake Lowell of the Deer Flat Refuge, followed with a luxuriant growth of vegetation that attracted great numbers of geese.

The estimates of the goose population inhabiting the Snake River Refuge were made by Mr. Vanderhoff, W.P.A. Supervisor in charge of the State Wide noxious weed crews controlling noxious vegetation on the islands, and myself.

Broods of Gadwall, Mallard, Pintail, and Cinnamon Teal were also observed, but they were not numerous.

About the 15th of August, migrant Pintails and Mallards began to arrive, but they did not concentrate on the refuge in great numbers. Migrating waterfowl use the course of Snake River as a flyway and occasionally stop along the course of the river to rest, utilizing the islands for resting, preening, and roosting.

Because of the current and deep water of the Snake River, the area does not produce sufficient aquatic vegetation to support great numbers of shallow water feeders. There exists an abundance of common fish which attracts many American and Red-breasted Mergansers. Lesser Scaup and Buffleheads are fairly common along the course of the Snake River.

There follows a table of the birds identified to date, utilizing the refuge and immediate vicinity.



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF  
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Deer Flat Migratory Waterfowl Refuge,  
P. O. Box 942,ampa, Idaho.

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Page 2. Narrative Report - Snake River Refuge

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IN REPLY REFER TO

SNAKE RIVER REFUGE, IDAHO.

	Spring Resident	Summer Resident	Fall Resident	Winter Resident	Occasional Visitor	Rare	COMMON	Abundant	Approximate Numbers	Nesters	First Observed	Last Observed
<u>NSWERIFORMES</u>												
✓ Swan, Whistling	x		x		x	x					10/39	
✓ Goose, Canada	x	x	x	x				x	600	x		
✓ Goose, Snow, Lesser	x		x		x	x			7		10/39	
✓ Mallard	x	x	x	x				x	3000	x		
✓ Gadwall	x	x	x				x		200	x		
✓ Baldpate	x		x		x	x			50			
✓ Pintail	x	x	x				x		200			
✓ Teal, Green-winged	x		x		x	x						
✓ Teal, Blue-winged	x	x			x	x						
✓ Teal, Cinnamon	x	x	x			x				x		
✓ Shoveler	x		x		x	x						
✓ Wood Duck	x		x		x	x						
✓ Redhead	x		x		x	x						
✓ Canvasback	x		x		x	x						
✓ Scaup, Lesser	x		x				x					
✓ Goldeneye, American	x		x				x					
✓ Hufflehead	x		x				x					
✓ Ruddy Duck	x		x			x						
✓ Merganser, American	x		x				x					
✓ Merganser, Red-breasted	x		x				x					
<u>CHARADRIFORMES</u>												
✓ Killdeer	x	x	x				x			x		
✓ Gull, California	x	x	x				x					
✓ Gull, Ring billed	x	x	x				x					
✓ Tern, Caspian	x	x	x		x	x						
✓ Tern, Black	x	x	x		x	x						
✓ Tern, Common	x	x	x		x	x						
✓ Avocet	x		x		x							
✓ Stilt, Black-necked	x		x		x	x						
✓ Yellowlegs, Lesser	x		x		x	x						
✓ Sandpiper, Spotted	x		x		x	x						
✓ Snipe, Wilson	x		x		x	x						

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SNAKE RIVER REFUGE, IDAHO.

	Spring Resident	Summer Resident	Fall Resident	Winter Resident	Occasional Visitor	Rare	Common	Abundant	Approximate Numbers	Nesters
<u>PASSERIFORMES</u>										
Kingbird, Eastern	x	x	x							x
Kingbird, Arkansas	x	x	x							x
Swallow, Bank	x	x	x							x
Swallow, Barn	x	x	x							x
Magpie, American	x	x	x	x						x
Raven, American	x		x	x						
Crow, Western	x		x	x						
Robin, Western	x	x	x							x
Bluebird, Mountain	x		x							
Sparrow, English	x	x	x	x						x
Sparrow, Tree, Western	x	x	x							
Sparrow, White-crowned	x	x	x							x
Lark, Meadow, Western	x	x	x	x						x
Blackbird, Yellow-headed	x	x	x							x
Blackbird, Red-wing	x	x	x							x
Blackbird, Brewster's	x	x	x							x
Shrike, White rumped				x						
Goldfinch, Pale	x	x	x							
Wren, Marsh, Western	x	x	x							x
<u>GAVIIFORMES</u>										
Loon, Lesser					x	x				
<u>PELECANIFORMES</u>										
Pelican, White	x	x	x				x			
Cormorant, Double-crested	x		x			x				
<u>COLYMBIFORMES</u>										
Grebe, Western	x	x	x					x		
Grebe, Eared	x		x			x				
Grebe, Pied-billed	x		x			x				
<u>CICONIIFORMES</u>										
Heron, Treganza's	x	x	x					x		
Heron, Black-crowned	x	x	x					x		
Bittern, American					x	x				

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<u>CRUIFORMES</u>												
✓ Coot, American	x	x	x				x			x		
<u>COLUMBIFORMES</u>												
✓ Dove, Mourning, Western	x	x	x				x			x		
<u>GALLIFORMES</u>												
✓ Pheasant, Ring-necked	x	x	x	x				x		x		
✓ Quail, Bob-white	x	x	x	x			x			x		
✓ Quail, Calif. Valley	x	x	x	x		x				x		
✓ Partridge, Hungarian	x	x	x	x			x			x		
<u>FALCONIFORMES</u>												
✓ Hawk, Marsh	x	x	x	x		x				x		
✓ Hawk, Duck	x	x	x	x		x						
✓ Hawk, Sparrow	x	x	x		x					x		
✓ Hawks, Rough legged	x	x	x	x		x						
✓ prey					x	x						
✓ Eagle, Golden					x	x						
<u>STRIGIFORMES</u>												
✓ Owl, Montana Horned	x	x	x	x		x						
✓ Owl, Burrowing Western	x	x				x						
✓ Owl, Short-eared	x	x	x			x				x		
<u>CAPRIMULGIFORMES</u>												
Night Hawk, Pacific	x	x	x				x			x		
<u>CORACIIFORMES</u>												
Kingfisher, Belted, Western					x	x						
<u>PICIFORMES</u>												
Flicker, Red-shafted	x	x	x				x			x		



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Deer Flat Migratory Waterfowl Refuge,  
P. O. Box 942, Nampa, Idaho.

Narrative Report - Snake River Refuge

Page 6.

During September of this period, an occasional Loon could be seen and there seemed to be an influx of Western Grebes. In October there was a light migration of Pied-billed Grebes. Treganza's and Black-crowned Night Herons inhabited the shallow sand bars at the lower end of the islands and in the shallow eddies of the river.

Upland Game Birds.

Ring-necked pheasants, Bob-white Quail, and Hungarian Partridges are fairly abundant on the refuge. During the hunting season of upland game birds, their numbers greatly increased on the islands where they sought refuge from the hunters.

Noxious Weed Control.

The islands of the refuge were formed by a deposit of silt over a period of years and they are very fertile. There exists a rank growth of vegetation consisting of wild rose, grey willow, and many species of vegetation, some of which have been declared noxious by the county commissioners, such as white top, Canada thistle, Indian hemp, and wild morning glory.

It is also claimed by the Noxious Weed Board of the State of Idaho, that the seeds from the above mentioned noxious weeds find their way to the farm lands which are irrigated by the waters of Snake River through canal systems. To control noxious weeds through the county, W.P.A. noxious weed projects have been inaugurated and have been chlorinating infected areas of the refuge islands and also along the banks of the river.

Willows and wild rose have also been declared noxious weeds. In some instances willows and wild rose grew so dense that the Canada Geese would not enter the thicket for nesting purposes, but since portions of this vegetation has been removed, it has made the islands more acceptable to nesting Canada Geese and there has been an increase in goose nesting on this refuge.

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Beet Flat Migratory Waterfowl Refuge,  
P. O. Box 942, Hampe, Idaho.

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Narrative Report - Snake River Refuge

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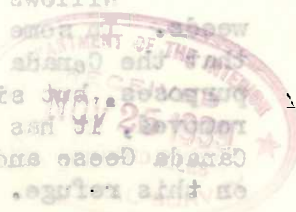
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Narrative Report - Snake River Refuge

Page 7.

During the latter part of October there was considerable waterfowl hunting along both sides of the refuge, but to date, hunting has been very poor. The waterfowl concentrate in small groups on the sand bars in the wake of the islands, but are out of range of the hunters along the banks of the river.

No haying, grazing, or special use permits have been issued for this area.

The islands of this refuge are free from predatory animals.

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Submitted by,

Ralph C. Winslow,  
Junior Refuge Manager.



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